

Listing of Claims:

1. (Currently Amended) A filling level sensor for detecting a fuel filling level in a fuel tank of a motor vehicle, where the fuel tank defines an installation opening through which the level sensor is inserted into the fuel tank, the filling level sensor comprising:

a float;

a lever arm coupled to the float that follows the fuel filling level, the lever arm comprising a plastic clip;

a support provided for installation in the fuel tank, the plastic clip being coupled to the support; and

wherein the plastic clip comprises a guide part which protrudes laterally ~~over~~ beyond an edge of the support and includes a contour that includes a guide curve on a side of the guide part facing away from the support;

wherein the installation opening has a diameter larger than the width of the support and less than the combination of the width of the support and the width of the guide part that protrudes laterally beyond the edge of the support; and

wherein the lever arm is configured to pivot with the plastic clip when the guide curve contacts a boundary of the installation opening.

2. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide curve is defined by a curved edge pointing away from the support.

3. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support includes an edge with a smooth contour on a side of the support facing away from the guide part of the lever arm.

4. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide part includes a latching connection on the lever arm.

5. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide part is manufactured integrally with the lever arm.

6. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the lever arm includes a lever wire coupled to the plastic clip and the float.

7. (Currently Amended) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the support or a component connected fixedly to the support is essentially the width of ~~an~~ the installation opening in the fuel tank.

8. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 7, further comprising an installation flange, and wherein the support is dependent from the installation flange which is configured for the closure of the installation opening in the fuel tank.

9. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, further comprising a potentiometer configured for detecting the position of the lever arm.

10. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 6, wherein the plastic clip comprises a mounting and a bearing hole in the mounting through which an angled end of the lever wire passes to form a bearing spindle.

11. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 1, wherein the guide part is formed integrally with the plastic clip.

12. (Currently Amended) A filling level sensor for detecting a fuel filling level in a fuel tank of a motor vehicle, the fuel tank defining an installation opening through which the filling level sensor is inserted into the fuel tank, the filling level sensor comprising:

a support inserted through the installation opening;

a float;

a lever arm coupled to the float that follows the fuel filling level, the lever arm comprising a plastic clip coupled to the support; and

wherein the plastic clip comprises a guide part which protrudes laterally ~~over~~ beyond a side of the support and includes a guide curve on a side of the guide part facing away from the support;

wherein the installation opening has a diameter larger than the width of the support and less than the combination of the width of the support and the width of the guide part that protrudes laterally beyond the side of the support; and

wherein the lever arm is configured to pivot with the plastic clip when the guide curve contacts a boundary of the installation opening as the support slides along another portion of the installation opening during installation of the support

through the installation opening, whereby the filling level sensor can be introduced straight into the fuel tank during installation and the installation opening and the guide curve together define an angle through which the lever arm is pivoted as a function of the position of the filling level sensor in relation to the fuel tank during the installation.

13. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 12, further comprising an installation flange connected to the support and closing the insertion opening when the support is fully inserted through the installation opening.

14. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 12, wherein a contour of the guide curve is designed to pivot the plastic clip during the installation of the support through the installation opening until the guide part is substantially flush with the side of the support.

15. (Previously Presented) The filling level sensor as claimed in claim 12, wherein a contour of the guide curve is designed to pivot the plastic clip during the installation such that the float and lever arm avoid obstruction in the fuel tank during the installation.